

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 14-17 have been added.

Claims 1-4 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 1-4 have been amended to be directed to a machine including the wrapping sheet. Claims 10-13 are basically product (the bags) by process claims.

Claims 5-13 are rejected over the combination of Takemasa, et al., U.S. 5,908,113 in view of the German patent to Gebhardt, DE 43 24 771 or Koch, et al, U.S. 6,309,104.

None of the references appear to show a sheet having triangular notches on each side edge part from which is produced a plurality of individual wrapping bags (now claim 5 of claim group 5-9), with the individual bags being made by the machine of claim 10, and the end product of the process of fusing parts of the sheet (claims 11-13). The Examiner applies the triangular notches from the secondary references to the pouches of Takemasa. But this is illogical. Takemasa separates his pouches from the belt by the combination of the perforations (9) and cut-outs (13, 14). There would be no need to have triangular edge portions. Therefore, the combination of references fails and claims 5-13 are patentable over the references.

Further, the references do not achieve the advantages of the triangular notches (see [091] of the publication of this application) in that they can be left without being fused in forming the individual bags. This makes it easier for the bags to be separated, but ensures that fusing along the edges will maintain the integrity of the contents in the finished bag. This feature is set forth in claim 5 and new claim 17.

New claim 14 depends from claim 1 and sets forth the disposition of the sheets of the composite in the final bag. Since the claim depends from an allowable claim, it should also be allowable.

New claim 15 depends from claim 5 and sets forth the material for the sheet as set forth in claim 1. Claim 16 depends from claim 15 and recites the subject matter of claim 14. These claims also should be allowable.

Application No. 10/735,181
Amendment dated May 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 14, 2005

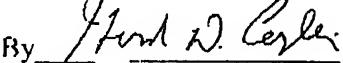
Docket No.: 00597/0200639-US0

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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